Number of Militants and their outfits in Jammu and Kashmir

3531. SHRIMATI VfENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast difference between the estimated number of militants and their outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir, as given out by the GOC-in-C, Northern Command;

(b) if so, what is Government's estimate about the number of such, militants operating in the State and the details of their outfits; and

(c) the steps taken to mop up and liquidate the militant outfits and to bring the youths involved in such activities into the national stream?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) According to available information there are a number of self-styled militant outfits operating in Jammu nd Kashmir, including Hizbul Mujahidecn, Harkat Ul Ansar, Lashkar-c-Toiba, Al-Jehad, Jamait-up-Mujahi-decn, Al-Ulmar Mujahidecn, Hizbullah, Al-Barq, JKLF, Hizbul Mominecn, etc. Since such organisations are underground and clandestine in nature it is not possible to make any precise estimate about the number of militants, and there are also bound to be differences in the estimates of different agencies depending upon their deployment and area of operations, etc. A close watch is continuously kept on the activities of the militants and the deployment of the forces and operations arc planned accordingly. Various measures have been taken to contain terrorist activities, such as sustained vigilance/patrolling on the bordcr/LOC and in the hinterland, active operations to flush out militants, establishment of pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening and reactivation of the local Police, strengthening of the Intelligence machinery, streamlining of the arrangements for coordination among the various security agencies, etc.

Apart from the anti-militant operations the Government has also consistently laid stress on the reactivation of the local civilian administration and the political forces, strengthening of the grievance rcdrcssal machinery and acceleration of the economic and developmental activities including creation of additional employment opportunities which are expected to isolate militants further and encourage them to come into the main stream. A Surrender Policy was also announced by the State Government in August 1995 following which around 1200 militants have surrendered with a large quantity of arms. Steps are being taken by the Government for the proper re. habituation of such persons including their recruitment in Central para-military foroes.

Smuggling of Chemical weapons into Jammu and Kashmir

3532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Chemical weapons smuggled into Jammu and Kashmir" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13th January, 1997;

(b) whether the BSF have seized chemical weapons in the Valley during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the source through which the chemical weapons get entry into the Valley; ancj

(d) the action plan formulated by Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) Government have seen the news-item referred to in the question. According to available information a container/grenade suspected to be a chemical grenade had been recovered by the BSF on 12 January 1997 in village Nuran. On further examination by experts it was found to be a country made grenade and not a chemical grenade. There are no other reports pertaining to recovery/seizure of chemical weapons in J & K. Sustained efforts are being made by the security forces to contain the possibility of smuggling and infiltration of weapons, etc. into the State from across the border.

Withdrawal of claim over Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

3533. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statements of members of the Jammu and Kashmir Government that State Assembly was to debate a resolution on withdrawing claim over Pakistan occupied Kashmir and surrender of Pakistan occupied Kashmir to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof with reaction thereto;

(c) whether such statements tantamount to violation of the Constitution of India and the oath of office taken by members of Government before assuming office;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take action in the matter so as to avoid repetition of same in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) to (e) Government are aware of the reports in the media about such statements having been purportedly made by the Members of Jammu & Kashmir Government as also of reports denying/clarifying the same. The position of the Government in this regard is that the whole of the State of J & K, including the area under illegal occupation of Pakistan, and portions of the State illegally ceded by Pakistan, is an integral part of India.

Census report regarding unemployment and Child Labour

3534. SHRI M.D. SALIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government on the data published by the Registrar-General of India based on computed, tabulated and processed Census Report;

(b) whether Government are aware that according to the Report, the number of working children is pegged at 11.3 million of which 6.2 million are boys and 5.1 million are girls; and

(c) if so, whether the census report contradicts all Government reports on unemployment are child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million as against an estimated 17.02 million of working children as per the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88.

Authentic figures on working children are generated from the census data. The information on working children for the intra census period is estimated on the